

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21245

The purpose of this bill is to restructure the format of the child exploitation law to make it easier to follow, update definitions to more closely match technological trends that exist in today's society, and more clearly differentiate penalties based upon severity of the crime.

Definitions will now all be contained in a separate section. Some of the definitions in code are being updated to incorporate modern technology. The vast majority of materials depicting the sexual exploitation of children that are exchanged, traded, downloaded and possessed are obtained by multiple methods via the Internet. The current law does not address all of these ways because of the way technology has progressed.

The current law often does not differentiate clearly between possession type crimes and other exploitation. Changes in technology have made some of these crimes much more difficult or impossible to prosecute. This legislation provides updated language that addresses multiple new ways children are being exploited, so that the charged crime(s) more accurately describe the illegal behavior and associated penalties considering the current and potential future technology.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no known negative fiscal impact to the state general fund. Local impact will vary depending on prosecutorial decisions, as is the case with other crimes.

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